

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05
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SUBJ: ENERGY: FACTORS AFFECTING SWISS CIEC POSITION

REF: BERN 1654; STATE 83366

1. LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE, SWISS POSITIONS ON
ENERGY PROBLEMS ARE DETERMINED LARGELY BY THEIR
OWN SITUATION AND IMPERATIVES. THIS TELEGRAM
ATTEMPTS TO OUTLINE THESE.

2. TOTAL SWISS ENERGY CONSUMPTION IN 1975
(1976 FIGURES NOT YET AVAILABLE) WAS EQUIVALENT
TO ABOUT 15.5 MILLION TONS OF OIL, DOWN FROM
PRE-RECESSION CONSUMPTION OF 17.3 MILLION TONS,
WITH ESTIMATED 21.8 MILLION TONS EXPECTED IN
1985. FOLLOWING SHOWS ENERGY CONSUMPTION BY
SOURCE AS PERCENT OF TOTAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION
WITH ESTIMATED CHANGES BY 1985.

SOURCE - 1975 - 1985 - CHANGE

A. NON-ELECTRIC

OIL - 76.4 - 68 - MINUS8.4

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GAS, NATURAL - 3.4 - 8.9 - 5.5
COAL, WOOD, (SOLAR BY 1985) - 3.0 - 4.3 - 1.3

B. ELECTRICITY, OF WHICH: - 17.2 - 18.8 - 1.6

HYDRO-ELECTRICITY - (13.4) - (8.6)

NUCLEAR POWER - (3.0) - (9.4)

THERMAL (CHIEFLY OIL, SOME WOOD) - (0.8) - (0.8)

SWISS ARE ENDEAVORING REDUCE ROLE OF OIL, WHICH ALREADY DROPPED FROM 77.4 PERCENT OF TOTAL IN 1974, THOUGH OIL CONSUMPTION IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE FROM 11.4 MILLION TONS IN 1975 TO 14 MILLION TONS IN 1985 BEFORE DECLINING IN ABSOLUTE TERMS.

3. SWISS ENERGY CONSUMPTION IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE BY AVERAGE 2.4 PERCENT ANNUALLY TO YEAR 2000. SWISS BELIEVE THAT SERIOUS CONSERVATION EFFORTS COULD REDUCE RATE TO 1.8 PERCENT, AS FOLLOWS:

MILLION TONS - 1980 - 1985 - 2000
NORMAL CONSUMPTION - 18.5 - 21.8 - 33.2
WITH CONSERVATION - 18.3 - 21.0 - 28.3
DIFFERENCE - 0.2 - 0.8 - 4.9

4. ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION IS EXPECTED TO RISE 3.8 PERCENT ANNUALLY UNLESS CONSERVATION MEASURES CAN REDUCE IT TO 3.6 PERCENT THROUGH GREATER USE OF GAS AND NUCLEAR POWER (NUCLEAR ALSO FOR HEATING). THREE NEW NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS ARE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN OPERATING BY 1985, IN ADDITION TO THREE ALREADY IN SERVICE, AND THREE MORE ARE PLANNED. SWISS SEE NO POSSIBILITY OF SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASING HYDRO-ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION; NEW PLANTS ARE INCREASINGLY UNECONOMICAL TO BUILD AND FUTURE DEPENDS LARGELY ON ENERGY PRICE DEVELOPMENTS. NATURAL GAS IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IMPORTED FROM ALGERIA, WEST GERMANY AND FRANCE. SWISS SEE POSSIBILITY OF INCREASING IMPORTS FROM ALGERIA, SOVIET UNION, IRAN, NORTH SEA AND SAUDI ARABIA.

5. SWISS BELIEVE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (INCLUDING NUCLEAR ENERGY) IS LIMITED AND ARE ANXIOUS TO EXPLORE OTHER SOURCES, EG, SOLAR AND GEOTHERMAL ENERGY. LITTLE OFFICIAL EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE HERE SO FAR ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATE SOURCES. MOST RESEARCH HAS BEEN CONDUCTED BY PRIVATE INDUSTRY OR AT UNIVERSITIES UNDER GRANTS FROM SWISS NATIONAL RESEARCH FUND. PROBABLY UNDER SF 1 MILLION ANNUALLY HAS BEEN SEPNT BY GOVT FOR ENERGY R&D IN RECENT YEARS. HOWEVER, FIVE YEAR SF 8 MILLION NATIONAL FUND PROGRAM OF ENERGY R AND D WAS ESTABLISHED IN LATE 1976. SWISS OTHERSIE PLAN TO PARTICIPATE IN IEA RESEARCH

PROGRAMS, EUROPEAN JET AND SPEND SF 25 MILLION
UNDER JOINT NUCLEAR RESEARCH PROGRAM WITH WEST
GERMANY.

6. SWISS FEDERAL COMMISSION FOR DEVELOPING
NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY IS SCHEDULED PRODUCE FINAL
REPORT THIS YEAR ESTABLISHING ENERGY GOALS AND
MAKING PROPOSALS FOR ENERGY POLICY. RECOMMENDATIONS
ARE EXPECTED TO BE BASED ON CONSIDERATIONS
MENTIONED ABOVE AND STRESS NEED FOR CONSERVATION
MEASURES (EG, BETTER INSULATION AND TEMPERATURE
CONTROLS FOR BUILDINGS AND LOWER HIGHWAY SPEED
LIMIT) AND DEVELOPMENT OF NEW SOURCES, ESPECIALLY
SOLAR ENERGY.
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